

and civic assistance activities in areas critical to East Timor's citizens. United States forces assigned to USGET and those conducting rotational presence operations operate under U.S. command and control and U.S. rules of engagement. The United Nations, and Australia as a leading contributor to UNTAET, have indicated that East Timor has benefited greatly from U.S. military deployments to and engagement activities in East Timor. Both the United Nations and Australia strongly support continued U.S. presence in East Timor.

At this point, U.S. rotational presence operations are envisioned to continue through December 2001. We are reviewing options for our military presence in 2002. My objective is to reduce the rotational presence operations, as well as to redeploy USGET, as circumstances permit, giving due regard to the situation on the ground and the views of our friends and allies in the region, including Australia.

I have authorized the continuation of this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 1, 2001

Good morning. On Monday, Americans will celebrate Labor Day. It's a day to salute the most productive person on Earth, the American worker.

Whether you work on a farm, in an office, or on a factory floor, whether you design computer chips, build houses, or teach school, whether you're just starting out or whether you built your own company from

nothing, your Nation thanks you for your labor.

American productivity has risen so high because Americans work hard and because they work smart. When Congress recognized the Labor Day holiday in 1894, most of this country's jobs demanded only a strong back and willing hands. Today, good jobs demand math skills, technical knowledge, and fluent reading.

The progress of our economy and the future of our children starts in the classroom. And that's why education must be our Nation's highest priority.

At this time of year, many of our children have already returned to school, and others are about to return. Congress, too, is returning from its summer recess, and it left behind some unfinished business: my education reform plan. Different versions of this plan have passed the House and the Senate. Congress should now produce a single bill that incorporates the strong reforms I have proposed.

It is vital that this bill uphold clear standards, require regular testing, and provide real accountability. Our children need the help my education plan will provide, a new commitment to reading and early intervention to catch those who fall behind.

Our educators need to get ready for the new accountability era that's coming to our schools. The more swiftly Congress acts, the more time educators will have to prepare. If Congress delays to play political games, they put another generation of students at risk.

The education reform bill I support offers new resources to schools. In return, it calls for improvements in math and reading, proven by testing, from every school in America. Higher standards will lead to higher quality education; yet, meeting those standards will require careful planning in local districts. Every day counts, and the sooner we start, the better. We want to start adopting reforms this school year so they can be up and running by the beginning of next school year. We've made good progress; now we must finish the job.

There is always something exciting about the new school year, the eager faces, the new books and shoes, scrubbed hallways. It's a

new start and a new opportunity. That's true for students; it's true for teachers; and it's true for Congress.

I'm looking forward to welcoming Congress back to Washington and back to work. Together we can make this a year of accomplishment. I challenge the Congress: Send me a good education reform bill to sign, and send it quickly, so that our children will return next year to schools that prepare them for good jobs through many Labor Days to come.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:40 p.m. on August 31 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 1. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Labor Day Greeting to the Nation *September 2, 2001*

Hello, and happy Labor Day. On this day we celebrate the hard work of Americans. Teachers and doctors, farmers and factory workers, policemen and engineers, bankers and mechanics—the working men and women of America are a model for the world.

Work is important to our human dignity. Everyone should know the satisfaction that comes from working hard and seeing results from your labor. That is why we need a strong and growing economy that creates jobs for all.

Americans everywhere have reason to be proud this Labor Day. We also have reasons to be profoundly grateful. We live in a blessed land, strong and free, at peace in the world, where we are able to enjoy the fruits of our labor and pursue our dreams. We should never forget what a rare and hopeful time in history this is. May God continue to bestow His blessings upon our land.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day.

NOTE: The greeting was videotaped at approximately 2:30 p.m. on July 30 in the Map Room for later broadcast. It was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 30 but

was embargoed for release until 4 p.m. on September 2. It was fed by satellite to networks and local television stations on August 31. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this greeting.

Remarks to the Northern Wisconsin Regional Council of Carpenters in Kaukauna, Wisconsin

September 3, 2001

Thank you all. I brought the A team with me. *[Laughter]* I tell you, I can't tell you how proud I am of the job that Laura is doing. Both of us are thrilled to be back in the great State of Wisconsin, in the neighborhood of the mighty Green Bay Packers. I'm old enough to remember the Ice Bowl—*[laughter]*—but I shouldn't bring up a sore subject—*[laughter]*—well, I mean, a fine subject. *[Laughter]* At any rate, we're thrilled to be here.

Doug, I want to thank you for a couple of things. First of all, I want to thank you for your leadership. Doug is a plain-spoken fellow. There's no question where he stands—*[laughter]*—which is good. There's also no question of where his heart is, and his heart is with the working men and women of the country, and I appreciate that, Doug.

There are a lot of talkers in Washington, DC, a lot of fancy-footwork people, but there's also some doers. And Doug puts his mind to getting something done; he can get it done. And as he said, "Sometimes we agree; sometimes we don't." But I will tell you, we'll always answer his phone; we'll always listen to what he has to say.

He brought a severe problem to my administration that relates to the carpenters and hard-working people of America. It had to do with pension benefits, that the pension plans weren't fair for the carpenters and for the working people. So we sat down with Doug and his folks and worked with some Members of Congress. And part of the tax relief plan that we got passed is a part that Doug had a lot to do with, which is pension reform, 401(k) reform, IRA reform—reform that's good for everybody in America who works with their hands, who works every single day.